

REMARKS

In response to the non-final Office Action mailed June 3, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 11 and 22 were objected to and claims 1-22 were rejected.

More specifically,

- Claims 1, 11 and 22 were objected to because of informalities;
- Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,735,708 (Arnett);
- Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Arnett in view of U.S. Patent 6,222,124 (Pritchard);
- Claims 11-12, 18 and 20-22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,466,434 (Tsai); and
- Claims 13-17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Tsai.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 2-3, 5-11 and 22 have been amended. Thus, claims 2-22 are pending. For the reasons set forth hereinbelow, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections and objections associated with the pending claims be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Applicants have herein canceled claim 1 and amended claims 11 and 22 to clarify that USB refers to Universal Serial Bus. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 1, 11 and 22 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claims 2-21

Applicants submit that the preamble of claim 11 (A wall plate) is essential to point out the invention defined by claim 11. Thus, Applicants submit that the preamble of claim 11 breathes life and meaning into the claim and constitutes a limitation thereto.

Applicants submit that independent claim 11 is not anticipated by Tsai because Tsai fails to disclose a USB wall plate as recited in claim 11. *See* MPEP § 2131 (a claim is anticipated only if each and every limitation of the claim is disclosed in a single prior art reference).

In contrast to the wall plate recited in claim 11, Applicants submit that Tsai, referring to Figure 2a thereof, merely discloses an interface panel for mounting on the back of a computer case - **not** a wall plate. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 11, and any claim that depends therefrom is not anticipated by Tsai.

For reasons similar to those set forth hereinabove, Applicants submit that independent claim 11 is nonobvious over Tsai because Tsai fails to teach or suggest a wall plate as recited in claim 11. *See* MPEP § 2143 (one of the elements of a prima facie case of obviousness under § 103(a) is that the prior art references, either alone or in combination, must teach or suggest every limitation of the claimed invention). Applicants further submit that claims 2-10 and 13-21, which depend from claim 11, are also nonobvious over Tsai. *See* MPEP §2143.03 (if an independent claim is nonobvious under §103(a), then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the § 102(b) and § 103(a) rejections associated with claims 2-21 be withdrawn.

Claim 22

Applicants submit that the preamble of claim 22 (A wall plate) is essential to point out the invention defined by claim 22. Thus, Applicants submit that the preamble of claim 22 breathes life and meaning into the claim and constitutes a limitation thereto.

Therefore, for reasons similar to those set forth hereinabove with respect to claim 11, Applicants submit that independent claim 22 is not anticipated by Tsai because Tsai fails to disclose a wall plate as recited in claim 22. *See* MPEP § 2131 *id.*

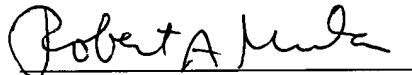
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the § 102(b) rejection associated with claim 22 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request a Notice Of Allowance for the pending claims in the present application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the present application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order that the Examiner's concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 31, 2004


Robert A. Muha
Reg. No. 44,249

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART, LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

Telephone: (412) 355-8244
Facsimile: (412) 355-6501
E-mail: rmuha@kl.com